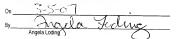
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via EFS to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date below:

PATENT Attorney Docket No.: S-16



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: David C. Hovda

Application No.: 10/735,477

Filed: December 11, 2003

METHODS FOR VISUALIZING AND

TREATING INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS

Examiner: Alex B. Tov

Art Unit: 3739

Confirmation No.: 2479

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed December 5, 2006. Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments set forth below and request favorable action thereon

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.